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SUBJECT: CAR: PARIS MEETING JULY 25

REF: SEMINARA/NEARY E-MAILS

1. Embassy Africa watcher attended a six-hour "sensitization" meeting on the Central African Republic (CAR), hosted at the MFA's conference center July 25. IMF CAR representative Mark Lewis (AmCit), World Bank CAR representative Ali Khadr, EU CAR delegation chief Esmieu, UNDP resident representative Stan Nkwain, and General Lamine Cisse, UNSYG Annan's representative briefed on the political and economic situation in CAR. The French MFA, followed by Japan, China, the UK, U.S. (drawing on ref points) and Denmark, all represented by officials based in Paris, reviewed current and future prospects for assistance to the CAR. No representative of the CARG was present. According to MFA DAS-equivalent Bruno Foucher, the IFI's had requested that the meeting be among donors only.

2. MFA Africa Director Joubert concluded the meeting by proposing a final communique. The communique essentially noted the participants in the meeting; that they had congratulated the CAR on the political transition; that they had agreed on the need to address the financial crisis in CAR; and that the meeting would be followed by a more formal donors' meeting in the fall, to propose concrete measures and funding in accordance with the recommendations of the IMF. Post will fax the papers from the meeting, as well as the final communique, when received, to AF/C.

3. On the margins of the meeting, Joubert told Africa watcher (as subsequently reported in the press), that President Bozize will meet President Chirac at the Elysee palace August 1. Joubert noted that the trip to France would be Bozize's first official visit to Paris since he came to power. At the MFA, Bozize will meet will Cooperation Minister Girardin, as FM Douste-Blazy will be traveling to Khartoum, Darfur (exact location TBD), and Niger, beginning July 28.
STAPLETON